

**June 26, 2014**  
**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF PLATTSBURGH**  
**MINUTES**

Meeting commenced at **5:10pm**.

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6).

**Absent:** None

**Council adjourned** to Executive Session. Returned to regular meeting at 5:25pm (matter of litigation)

**Item 1: Tree Report/Hedges:**

Discussion began with Mayor Calnon speaking on history of Local Law 2 of 2011. In the past the easy fixes have been taken off. In some instances the sections of the sidewalk are covered with over growth.

**Councilor O'Connell** told of receiving calls about the recently issued notices sent by Building Inspector's office. He asked what is good enough to correct and how some residents have begun adhering to the law.

**Building Inspector Joe McMahon** reviewed the law having been established in 2011 with notices sent in 2012. No notices sent in 2013. Law was reviewed by Judge Rogers. Wording "seeking a stay" was eliminated. Change was not based on a challenge.

**Councilor Kelly** asked what effect will hedge removals have on assessments.

**Councilor O'Connell** will advise his questioning constituents of the law remaining as is. There was discussion among councilors about a possible repeal, adjustment or keeping as is.

**Councilor Armstrong** commented the need to maintain accessible walkways as part of the complete streets initiative.

**Mayor Calnon** will look in to possibilities of reassessments for those removing hedges.

**Councilor Kelly** hopes not to lose assessment monies.

**Building Inspector Joe McMahon** may re-contact those not complying.

**Item 2: North Margaret Street Report:**

**Councilor Kasper** reviewed the submitted report. Three options presented. Proposal #2 is viewed as best plan. Minimal investment. Closer look at intersection at Georgia Pacific. Short term/long term plans discussed. Catch basins and sidewalk repair encouraged.

**Mayor Calnon** told of Kevin Farrington seeking an estimate for painting/stripes. Other concerns discussed. Costs, timeline and storm drains were factors.

### **Item 3: Sidewalks:**

**Mayor Calnon** opened topic reviewing the existing situations of no sidewalks, old/new sidewalks and situation with new developments. ADA requires 5 feet wide. We have many walks 3 feet wide. What do we want? How do we fix it? Are sidewalks passable on new base? We need to send a message to Planning Board what should we do as council.

**Councilor Kelly** spoke of how great Pine Street looks with new sidewalks and curbs while in the same area much is still old.

**Mayor Calnon** spoke of needing to control water runoff.

**Councilor Dowdle** spoke of additional sidewalk issues on both the old and new base. Many walkers do not use the sidewalk on Oval. Many instances of cars parked over sidewalks making them impassable. He will speak with Police Department as the Council liaison.

**Councilor Armstrong** told of these issues being addressed via the homeowners association.

### **Item 4: First Weekends:**

**Mayor Calnon** told of business concerns in downtown area during First Weekend. Farmers Market, Ashley's and Delish have indicated negative impacts. He has contacted Tim McCormick and awaits a response about alternating location. Three proposals have been submitted.

**Councilor Kretser** expressed parking space losses and how no matter where event is held, complaints will be heard. He and others agreed the idea of First Weekends is great and will receive continued support. He will speak to members of First Weekend.

**Councilor Kasper** recalled complaints from other businesses who wished to have the opportunity to benefit.

**Mayor Calnon** feels other options would place these activities more in the center of business district. Durkee Street would be a good test. Traffic alternatives being reviewed.

### **OTHER:**

Discussion of participation by council in a 4<sup>th</sup> of July float. MacDonough monument cost \$125,000 from feds and state in 1914. Funds now would cost \$3.0 million. New flag pole will be lit by MLD and installed closer to City Hall. This will be done in memory of fallen heroes of the Battle of Plattsburgh. New 5 X 8 flag is on order. Yellow knit scarf was removed from exterior post. Flower canister scheduled for front of City Hall. A full time parking enforcement attending is on the beat.

[Minutes recorded and submitted by Councilor Dowdle]